

## FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

## TRIP OF OCTOBER 1, 1939 TO LAKE MASHIPECONG

Twelve members and friend of the club met at the new Life's Girls' camp at Lake Mashipecong. On the trail to Lost Lake two good stands of *Chelone glabra* were observed. The following asters and goldenrods were seen in bloom: *Aster divaricatus*, *A. ericoides*, *A. linariifolius*, *A. novae-angliae*, *A. paniculatus*, *A. undulatus*, *A. umbellatus* and *Solidago bicolor*, *S. caesia*, *S. graminifolia*, *S. odora*, *S. rugosa*, and *S. speciosa*. *Epigaea repens* was seen continually on the trail.

We approached Lost Lake, a quaking black spruce and tamarack bog, by way of an almost invisible trail through a thick growth of *Kalmia latifolia*, *Vaccinium corymbosum* and *Rhododendron viscosum*. *Sarracenia purpurea*, *Andromeda glaucophylla*, *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, *Kalmia angustifolia* and *Eriophorum virginicum* were the most prominent herbaceous plants in the bog. Dr. Chrysler and Dr. Small were rewarded for some careful searching of the black spruce by finding good specimens of *Arceuthobium pusillum*, the dwarf mistletoe. The lichen, *Alectoria* was found near the mistletoe.

A blazing fire in the fireplace of an old "Stagecoach Inn," now councillors' house, was a welcome sight on our return to the meeting place for luncheon. Rain had begun to fall and we were all somewhat chilled. Dr. Sharp, director of Life's Camps, who joined our morning trek served coffee which was much appreciated.

Five of us donned rain clothes after lunch and ventured down to Lake Mashipecong. The leader was most anxious to exhibit a handsome stand of *Ilex verticillata*, the branches full of bright red berry clusters. *Gentiana quinquefolia*, *G. crinita* and *Polygala sanguinea* were observed in flower.

ELEANOR FRIEND

TRIP OF OCTOBER 8 TO THE ESTATE OF MR. LOUIS E. MCFADDEN  
IN PEEKSKILL

Seven of us met at Mr. McFadden's estate. This place is a veritable botanical garden. It comprises land formerly owned by the

late Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and an adjoining piece formerly owned by the Beach family. Many exotic trees and shrubs were set out on both parts of the estate nearly sixty years ago and they have thrived there with a southern exposure. Parts of the property were neglected in recent years before Mr. McFadden obtained it, but those regions are all the more interesting to a botanist because seedlings of *Cladrastus lutea*, *Mahonia aquifolium*, *Aralia spinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, and varieties of *Acer palmatum* are springing up almost like weeds. Fortunately for the future of the place both Mr. McFadden and his superintendent, Mr. A. H. Brown, fully appreciate the botanical prize which they have, and they are endeavoring to have all the exotic plants accurately named. In this they have largely succeeded. They have been very generous with the leader, and on various occasions have given him and accompanying botanists free run of the place. This was the second TORREY trip which has been scheduled to the estate.

After parking the cars behind the barn and inspecting an English walnut tree, we went down the slope toward the front of the house. On the way we noted some Magnolias in fruit, and then specimens of *Taxodium distichum*, *Sophora japonica*, *Acer pictum*, and *A. campestre*. Directly in front of the house is a fine specimen of *Magnolia macrophylla*. At the edge of the lawn are three pines including *Pinus cembra*. A little farther to the west the planting is more dense, and at the edge of this is a tree of *Fagus sylvatica* var. *laciniata*. Farther down the slope among other trees stands *Pinus jeffreyi*. On the slope below the Beach house are two bushes of *Zenobia pulverulenta*, a real tree of *Oxydendron arboreum*, and representatives of *Picris*. At the edge of the lawn in front of the Beach house are a number of odd plants including *Juniperus formosana*, some varieties of *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, a grotesque weeping form of fir, and others. Besides the drive leading to the Beach house is an unusually large, fine specimen of *Tsuga canadensis* var. *pendula*. Farther along are some fine specimens of *Taxus*, and behind these a couple of good-sized holly trees, and one of the queerest trees on the whole place, *Pinus bungeana*, a three-needle pine with scaling bark something like a sycamore.

After lunch we passed the gardens and greenhouse and along the way we stopped to look at a papaw tree, *Asimina triloba*, but no fruits were left on it. Nearer the greenhouse is a persimmon

tree, *Diospyros virginiana*. Mr. Brown thinks this may be the most northern specimen of persimmon. We followed a trail through a wilder portion of woodland at the back of the estate, but as we approached the Beach house again from the rear we found some other less-common plants: *Quercus phellos*, *Aesculus parviflora*, *Chionanthus virginica*, unusually attractive with its dark blue fruits; *Gymnocladus dioeca*, *Acer negundo*, and *Maclura pomifera*. This of course is but a partial list of the plants on the estate, and one must see them to fully appreciate the magnificence which some of them have attained in their fifty odd years of growth.

HAROLD H. CLUM

#### TRIP OF OCTOBER 20 TO 22 TO MOHONK LAKE

The 47 members and friends who gathered at the Lake Mohonk Mountain House found the Shawangunks to be at the height of their autumn coloring. Both hardwoods and softwoods contributed to the beautiful mosaic. We were told that the foliage had started to turn ten days later than normally, had colored up quite fast and was lasting longer than usual. The long continued summer drought and very late first frost were believed to be contributing factors.

On Saturday morning a large group set out for Millbrook Mountain, enjoying the thrill of a six mile "straw ride" behind horses. Near Sleepy Hollow a fine buck was seen bounding across the road. The ride along Undercliff road which is a narrow track carved out of a steep talus slope at the foot of a towering escarpment was awe inspiring. A three foot blacksnake was seen sunning himself on a rock.

The Millbrook Trail is comparatively easy and gives no warning of the magnificent panorama which greets one from the top. The distant haze merely served to emphasize the riot of color of nearby slopes and valleys. Box lunches were eaten at the very summit of the mountain while we watched an intermittent flight of hawks sail by, undoubtedly headed for Hawk Mountain which is on a continuation of this ridge. A stiff south wind gave them plenty of "up lift." Eleven Sharp-shins, 2 Turkey Vultures, and a Red-tail were identified, while two other Buteos and a Falcon were seen high overhead.

The afternoon route took us back through Coxing Clove to Lake Minnewaska, where we enjoyed a different view of the Cat-

skills and Shawangunks. To some the sight of Awosting Falls tumbling into the Hemlock and Rhododendron filled Peterskill ravine was the highlight of the trip.

For those who wished a less strenuous trip, Mrs. A. Keith Smiley, Jr., led an afternoon walk through the extensive Mohonk flower gardens. The chrysanthemums, gourds of many varieties, and late roses were especially noteworthy. The group continued on to Sky Top noting trees and berry-bearing shrubs in fall condition.

In the evening three reels of colored motion pictures showing Mohonk scenery and activities in fall and winter were projected.

On Sunday morning there were showers so we visited the Mohonk greenhouse to see the collection of cultivated and exotic species which are used for outside decoration in summer.

DANIEL SMILEY, JR.

#### TRIP OF OCTOBER 29 TO HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA.

The group of nine members and guests came from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We were made welcome to Hawk Mountain by Mr. Maurice Broun, Ornithologist-in-Charge. Splendid weather and good bird flights made the day an interesting one. The official count for the day listed 412 Red Tailed Hawks, 102 Sharp Shinned Hawks, 19 Red Shouldered Hawks, 7 Coopers Hawks, 1 Pigeon Hawk, 3 Vultures and 1 immature Golden Eagle. In addition one flock of 22 Canada Geese was seen and a huge flock of Red Winged Blackbirds containing hundreds of individuals.

One cannot cease to wonder at the large number of people who find it interesting to visit Hawk Mountain; there were several hundred visitors on this particular Sunday. The Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association is doing a splendid piece of work in popularizing bird observation and in teaching the value of the Hawks.

J. L. RODDA

CLARA G. RODDA

#### TRIP OF OCTOBER 29 TO THE LOWER CROTON RIVER

Eight members of the Torrey Club and two visitors from the Connecticut Botanical Club met at the Harmon station and began to botanize along the road, where *Bidens bipinnata* and *Euphorbia*

*preslii* attracted particular attention. After walking along a few residential streets we came to the woods along the Croton River. Here we found good specimens of *Juglans* and *Platanus* and the usual woodland border plants, *Rhus*, *Robinia* *Rubus*, etc. On the ground Mr. Beals spotted *Ephemerum* for us. Going down the hill to the bottom of the valley we found some nice plants of *Asplenium platyneuron*. Farther up the river among the rocks were several Bryophytes, including *Anthoceros*, *Conocephalum*, *Climacium*, *Brachythecium* and *Entodon*; Pteridophytes including: *Selaginella*, *Thelypteris marginalis*, and *Polypodium vulgare*; and grasses: *Agrostis capillaris* and *Panicum capillare*. On the moist alluvial soil grew *Equisetum hyemale*, *Benzoin*, *Hamamelis*, maples, hemlock, *Carpinus* and *Liriodendron*. Two species of *Elymus*, and the bottle brush grass, *Hystrix patula*, were found along the way. The most unusual find of all was a flowering specimen of *Viola cucullata*.

HAROLD H. CLUM

#### TRIP OF JANUARY 14, 1940 TO THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

In spite of a stormy day, twenty-six members and guests of the Club took advantage of the invitation of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to inspect the unique collection of cycads. Due to the efforts of the Administration all nine genera of this tropical order were represented, some genera by several species, the plants of *Macrozamia* from Australia being especially fine. The leader pointed out some of the peculiar features of the group, and exhibited cones of several genera.

The party then made a short survey of the other greenhouse collections, and adjourned to one of the laboratories where they were very kindly treated to afternoon tea by members of the Garden Staff. Being thus fortified, all members of the party, so we believe, survived the stormy journey home.

M. A. CHRYSLER, Leader

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